

[COPY]

26 February 2021

Transmitted by email

[To a National Spiritual Assembly]

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

The Universal House of Justice has received your email letter dated 15 Mulk 177 (20 February 2021), in which you explain that, owing to the contradictory nature of the available information concerning the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the effectiveness and safety of vaccination against it, disagreements have arisen amongst some of the believers in your country. In this regard, you request guidance that you may share with your community. We have been asked to convey the following.

Your efforts to guide your community during this challenging period are warmly acknowledged. Enclosed are copies of two letters written on behalf of the House of Justice to individual believers that relate to the issues you have raised. The contents of these letters may be shared with the friends in whatever manner you consider appropriate as these will no doubt assist them to obtain a better understanding of the principles involved. An additional point that can be drawn to the attention of the believers is that the purpose of being vaccinated extends beyond the protection it affords the individual concerned. There is also an important social component; namely, that when a large enough proportion of the population is vaccinated, the spread of a disease amongst them is retarded, thereby protecting those who—for whatever reason—are unable to be vaccinated. The friends should therefore also weigh this social obligation as they make their decision on this matter.

In relation to your query about whether it would be appropriate for you to encourage the friends to be vaccinated, it would appear sufficient for you to advise them to follow the recommendations of reputable public health experts in your country. Ultimately, this is a matter for individuals to decide.

Be assured of the supplications of the House of Justice in the Holy Shrines that you may be aided by the Abhá Beauty as you continue to guide your community.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

Department of the Secretariat

Enclosures

cc: International Teaching Centre (with enclosures)
Board of Counsellors ... (with enclosures)
Counsellor ... (with enclosures)
Counsellor ... (with enclosures)